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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION : OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF :

Administrative Action

Lyndsay A. Paul, RN License #26NR12407700

ORDER OF SUSPENSION
OF LICENSE

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

HE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating the following:

1. Lyndsay A. Paul ("Respondent") is a Registered

Professional Nurse (RN) in the State of New Jersey and has been

- a licensee at all relevant times. (Exhibit A).
- 2. Respondent entered into a private letter agreement with the Board on or about March 7, 2014. The agreement required, in part, that Respondent enroll in and comply with the Board's designated intervention program, the Recovery and Monitoring Program ("RAMP"), to undergo evaluation, monitoring, and treatment, including random screens. The agreement, which was to remain private and confidential unless and until the Board received reliable information that Respondent had violated any term, was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. (Exhibit B).
- 3. Respondent initially enrolled in RAMP for a period of 90 days to undergo evaluation. In June 2014, RAMP recommended that Respondent remain enrolled in RAMP for a minimum of one year. Respondent refused to follow the recommendation for lengthier enrollment and refused to sign a one year contract with RAMP. (Exhibit C).
- 4. Respondent underwent a screen on August 18, 2014 which yielded a positive result for alcohol and buprenorphine (generic for Suboxone, a Schedule III Controlled Substance), both potentially addictive substances. (Exhibit C). Respondent failed to provide a valid prescription or any other

documentation for the buprenorphine. (Exhibit C).

- 5. After the positive screen, on or about August 28, 2014, RAMP recommended that Respondent limit her nursing practice and place her license on inactive status. Respondent failed to follow the recommendation and failed to inactivate her license to practice nursing. (Exhibit C).
- 6. Respondent ceased participation with RAMP; Respondent did not successfully complete the program nor was she released from the program. (Exhibit C).
- 7. RAMP cannot assure the Board or the public that Respondent is safe to practice. (Exhibit C).
- 8. After testing positive for two substances, failing to follow the recommendations of RAMP for lengthier enrollment and to limit her nursing practice by placing her license on inactive status, and leaving RAMP, Respondent enrolled in the Professional Assistance Program (PAP). (Exhibit D).
- 9. On or about February 5, 2015, a communication was sent to Respondent at her address of record by overnight and regular mail, advising Respondent that the Board had received information indicating that she was not in compliance with the private letter agreement and with her agreement with RAMP.

 Respondent was further advised to provide the Board with proof

of any inaccuracy in that information within two weeks.

(Exhibit E). No response was received.

- 10. The private letter agreement signed by Respondent provided for automatic suspension of Respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that Respondent had violated any term of the private letter agreement. The agreement states that Respondent may, upon notice to the Board, request a hearing to contest the automatic suspension; however, at any such hearing, the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding Respondent's violation of the agreement was materially false. The Board also reserved the right to bring further disciplinary action. (Exhibit B).
- 11. Respondent violated the private letter agreement by:

 failing to refrain from the use of potentially addictive

 substances as evidenced by her positive screen for two

 substances; failing to provide a prescription or any

 documentation for buprenorphine; failing to follow the

 recommendation of RAMP for lengthier enrollment in RAMP; failing

 to follow the recommendation of RAMP to limit her nursing

 practice by placing her license on inactive status; and failing

 to remain in RAMP until successful completion or release from

the program. Each violation of the private letter agreement constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), and automatic suspension of her license as provided in the private letter agreement.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this ____ day of _______, 2015, HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for her violation of the terms of the private letter agreement as set forth above, which is a violation of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).
- 2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, request a hearing, upon notice, on the sole issue of whether information received that Respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement was materially false.
- 3. In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board shall not entertain any application for reinstatement without a demonstration by Respondent that she is fit and competent to practice, in full compliance with a Consent Order containing

terms and conditions similar to the private letter agreement, and that a Board-approved evaluator supports her reinstatement.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Murphy,

PhD, APN

Board President